

REMARKS

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Please note that the Attorney Docket No. should be 8007-1033.

Claims 1-7 and 9-18 are pending, claim 18 being new.

Claims 1-6 and 10-17 have been allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claim 9 was indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter.

Claim 9 has been amended to be in independent form including the recitations of base claim 7. Accordingly allowance of claim 9 is solicited.

There are no formal matters outstanding.

Claim 7 stands rejected as obvious over SENGOKU et al. 4,874,630 in view of UNO et al. JP 61234763.

Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that a sealed container containing tofu is dropped and that after the dropping the tofu remains within the sealed container. See, e.g., "intentionally dropping the sealed container from a height sufficient to break a contact between contained tofu and an inside surface of the sealed container, wherein after the dropping step, the tofu remains contained with the dropped sealed container as packed tofu."

Neither of the references appears to drop a sealed container with the tofu, the tofu remaining in the container after dropping as packed tofu.

As to SENGOKU et al., the teaching at column 5, lines 4-9 relates to test panels being shaken and not to a sealed container with tofu packed inside.

As to UNO et al., the teaching is directed to transferring product out of a mold and does not teach dropping with respect to dropping a sealed container with tofu packed inside. See the Constitution stating that the frozen product is released from the tray and coated with a coating material and frozen again. This makes clear that there is no teaching as to dropping a sealed container with tofu packed inside.

Further, the manufacturing process of UNO et al. appears unrelated to the manufacturing process of SENGOKU et al. Why would one improving SENGOKU et al. look to a frozen food process? Claim 18 recites the tofu not being frozen.

Applicants see no reason for combining these references. Further, even if combined they do not result in that recited as there is no suggestion of "dropping the sealed container from a height sufficient to break a contact between contained tofu and an inside surface of the sealed container, wherein after the dropping step, the tofu remains contained with the dropped sealed container as packed tofu."

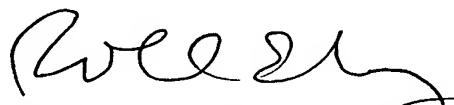
Reconsideration and allowance of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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